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EDITORIAL PAGE

CIA Change

It has taken President Kennedy some time to make a change in the directorship of the CIA which has been under severe criticism.

Allen Dulles, who has headed the CIA for some years, is an affable person, with some training in espionage and a good understanding of European affairs.

However, he inherited a body that started as the OSS which was a total flop. One might almost say that the OSS was a menace to the United States because it gave cover to a large number of Communists and pro-Communists.

The CIA had to overcome the adverse reputation of the OSS and organize a combined espionage and commando service to make it effective. It has not been effective. Its greatest failure was the mishandling of the Cuban situation.

This fiasco cannot be explained except on the assumption that inexperience prevailed over expert knowledge. The Marine Corps could have done this job by the normal process of commando activity for which it is trained. An espionage organization such as the CIA is should have nothing to do with operations.

President Kennedy has appointed John A. McCone to succeed Allen Dulles. McCone has had no experience in espionage or intelligence or whatever you want to call the work the CIA does. He has a reputation for industrial efficiency and he has served as head of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Whether such a man is suitable for such a position is very doubtful. But then that is how we operate. We do not use trained men in technical positions; we prefer a competent industrialist to do a technician's work. It sometimes succeeds.



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